

IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the claims begin on page 4 of this amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

Claims 22-37 (Canceled)

Please enter new claims 38-49, as follows:

38. (New) A method for allocating a real server to a pool of real servers, said method comprising the steps of:

automatically sending by a first real server to a second real server performance data of said first real server for execution of an application, said first server being part of said pool of servers;

based on the performance data, automatically determining by said second server that said first server is functional but has reached a predetermined upper level of utilization, and in response,

automatically identifying another, available real server having said application but not currently allocated to said pool,

automatically requesting via a network from said other real server connection settings for said other real server,

automatically reconfiguring said second server to identify said other real server as part of said pool and record said connection settings for communication with said other real server, and

automatically sending, via a network, a reconfiguration request to a load balancer for said pool to allocate said other real server to said pool for handling requests for said application.

39. (New) A method as set forth in claim 38 further comprising the steps of:

automatically requesting, via a network from said other real server, port authentication settings for said other real server; and

wherein the step of automatically reconfiguring said second server includes the step of recording said authentication settings.

40. (New) A method as set forth in claim 38 further comprising the subsequent steps of:

based on subsequent performance data of said first server, determining by said second server that said first server is functional but under utilized such that said first server is no longer needed in said pool, and in response, automatically de-allocating said first server from said pool.

41. (New) A method as set forth in claim 38 wherein a multiplicity of copies of said application are installed in a respective multiplicity of said servers in said pool.

42. (New) A system for allocating a real server to a pool of real servers, said system comprising:

a central processing unit;

a module for automatically receiving from said first real server performance data of said first real server for execution of an application, said first server being part of said pool of servers;

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically determining that said first server is functional but has reached a predetermined upper level of utilization;

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically identifying another, available real server having said application but not currently allocated to said pool;

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically requesting via a network from said other real server connection settings for said other real server;

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically reconfiguring said system to identify said other real server as part of said pool and record said connection settings for communication with said other real server; and

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically sending, via a network, a reconfiguration request to a load balancer for said pool to allocate said other real server to said pool for handling requests for said application.

43. (New) A system as set forth in claim 42 further comprising:

a module, responsive to the performance data, for automatically requesting, via a network from said other real server, port authentication settings for said other real server; and

wherein the module for automatically reconfiguring said system also records said authentication settings.

44. (New) A system as set forth in claim 42 further comprising:

a module, responsive to subsequent performance data of said first server, for determining that said first server is functional but under utilized such that said first server is no longer needed in said pool, and in response, automatically de-allocating said first server from said pool.

45. (New) A system as set forth in claim 42 wherein a multiplicity of copies of said application are installed in a respective multiplicity of said servers in said pool.

46. (New) A computer program product for allocating a real server to a pool of real servers, said computer program product comprising:

first program instructions to automatically receive from said first real server performance data of said first real server for execution of an application, said first server being part of said pool of servers;

second program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically determine that said first server is functional but has reached a predetermined upper level of utilization;

third program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically identify another, available real server having said application but not currently allocated to said pool;

fourth program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically request via a network from said other real server connection settings for said other real server;

fifth program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically reconfigure said system to identify said other real server as part of said pool and record said connection settings for communication with said other real server;

sixth program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically send, via a network, a reconfiguration request to a load balancer for said pool to allocate said other real server to said pool for handling requests for said application;

a computer readable media which stores said first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth program instructions; and

a central processing unit to execute said first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth program instructions.

47. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 46 further comprising:

seventh program instructions, responsive to the performance data, to automatically request, via a network from said other real server, port authentication settings for said other real server; and wherein

said fifth program instructions also record said authentication settings;

said computer readable media stores said seventh program instructions; and

said central processing unit to execute said seventh program instructions.

48. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 46 further comprising:

seventh program instructions, responsive to subsequent performance data of said first server, to determine that said first server is functional but under utilized such that said first server is no longer needed in said pool, and in response, automatically de-allocate said first server from said pool; and wherein

said computer readable media stores said seventh program instructions; and

said central processing unit to execute said seventh program instructions.

49. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 46 wherein a multiplicity of copies of said application are installed in a respective multiplicity of said servers in said pool.